

This award is truly a tribute to the pioneers and current residents of Durham and the region. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Durham for its recognition as the "Tastiest Town in the South."

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE OF JEREMIAH LOWNEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to share with you the accomplishments of Jeremiah Lowney of Norwich, Connecticut.

I am pleased that the White House is honoring Jeremiah Lowney as a Champion of Change, which is a well deserved honor. On April 5, 2013 Jerry was honored with 11 other Rotary International Members that have improved the lives of thousands both in the United States and abroad. For over thirty years, Jeremiah "Jerry" Lowney has successfully applied his exceptional skills in orthodontia and medicine to helping those living in some of the world's most inhospitable conditions. After cultivating a fruitful career as an orthodontist, Jerry became focused on providing the most basic and necessary health services to those who needed it more than almost anyone in the world: the citizens of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In doing so, Jerry selflessly prioritized his own health concerns below those of his future patients: he was recovering from surgery and radiation following treatment of a rare form of cancer when he embarked on his first mission trip to Haiti in 1982.

After dedicating three years of service toward Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity providing free dental care to Haitians in Port-au-Prince, Jerry was asked by Mother Teresa to branch out to Jeremie, a rural city in Southwestern Haiti suffering from severe deficiencies in both the quality and availability of health care. Jerry's tireless efforts led what was initially a small outreach group to blossom into the Haitian Health Foundation (HHF), a stalwart organization that has offered health care services to Jeremie and over 100 of the rural and remote mountain villages which surround it.

Though the Foundation's successes are innumerable in quantity, some recent highlights include: a 90 percent immunization rate, almost 100 percent reduction in diarrhea deaths, a national award for Vitamin A program which prevents child blindness, and a reduction in childhood deaths from bacterial pneumonia by more than 50 percent. In addition, the HHF maintains programs which distribute hot meals and take-home food for thousands of malnourished children, as well as a family sponsorship program that sends thousands of children to school each year.

As a recipient of dozens of humanitarian awards, Jerry's efforts have certainly not gone unrecognized. Yet despite his philanthropic accomplishments, Jerry has never lost his quiet, humble sense of duty and compassion for those less fortunate. Jerry's unwavering determination, skills, and philanthropic nature have led him to extraordinary success in one of the world's most impoverished regions. His ac-

tions have improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of impoverished Haitians, who without him may never have been able to find adequate care. Jerry has offered more than health and dental services to these people; he has offered them hope. Despite his grueling schedule running a busy dental practice and managing the Haitian clinic he also is active in the Norwich community lending a hand to civic and charitable causes of every type. His family, his hometown of Norwich, and all of eastern Connecticut are proud of Jerry Lowney's remarkable success, and I applaud the White House for recognizing his accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the service and accomplishments of Jeremiah Lowney.

HONORING MARY O'RIORDAN, PARENT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION COUNTY OF SONOMA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary O'Riordan, who is retiring after nine years as President of the Parent Hospital Association (PHA) at Sonoma Developmental Center.

Ms. O'Riordan dedicated her life to serving persons with developmental disabilities. As President of PSA, she was in constant contact with state legislators in Sacramento and federal representatives in Washington, DC, traveling multiple times to both capitals to advocate on behalf of association members. She also served six years on the board of directors of VOR, the national advocacy group for persons with developmental disabilities.

Ms. O'Riordan's advocacy is rooted in her personal experience. Michael, the second of her four sons, was severely disabled and lived at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) until his death in January 2011. It was his experiences at SDC, the place he called home, that led her to champion the institution, its staff and its residents.

Ms. O'Riordan was passionate about her calling, stating, "I look forward to the day when every family—those who have a developmentally disabled child and those who do not—are equally involved, engaged and concerned about the special needs of our developmentally disabled citizens and to the day when all legislators have their needs on the top of their list of priorities."

In addition to her advocacy on behalf of SDC, Ms. O'Riordan was the administrative assistant for the Deputy Chief of Administration at the San Francisco Fire Department for 35 years. In this capacity, she was honored by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for her outstanding service.

Mr. Speaker, Mary O'Riordan has a long and distinguished career in service to others, most notably to our developmentally disabled population. Her tireless commitment to her community is apparent and it is therefore appropriate that we acknowledge her today and wish her well in her retirement as President of the Parent Hospital Association.

JAMES CLEARY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Cleary for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. James Cleary is an 8th grader at Arvada K-8 and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Cleary is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Cleary for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF POLISH PRESIDENT LECH KACZYNSKI

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, the Air Force TU 154 plane carrying Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 other top Polish officials crashed near Smolensk, Russia. The delegation had been on their way to Katyn to commemorate the deaths of 4400 Polish Army officers who were ruthlessly executed by the Soviets in 1943.

In the 1970s, Kaczynski, a staunch anti-communist, made a name for himself as an underground oppositionist, and, in 1980, when the Solidarity workers' union was founded, he assisted in the Gdansk Shipyard strike and later served as the group's legal adviser. In 1981, after the imposition of the martial law, he was put in prison.

In free Poland, Kaczynski served many roles—Senator, Mayor of Warsaw, Attorney General, Minister of Justice, and, in 2001, he was elected President.

President Kaczynski was always supportive of strong Poland-U.S. relations, and was skeptical of close relations with the German/French dominated European Union. Kaczynski rightly feared that reliance on Russian energy supplies would inhibit sober evaluation of Russian policies at home and abroad.

Americans appreciate our country's alliance with this great nation in the ongoing fight for freedom across the world. Today, three years after the tragic crash, we stand in solidarity with the people of Poland and mourn the loss of their President and countrymen.